

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Monoclonal antibody specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein.

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2. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 1 wherein the inactivated FIV is FIV-Shiz or FIV-Petaluma.

10 3. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said glycoprotein is gp95 or gp130.

15 4. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 1 produced from a hybridoma cell line suitable for obtaining of monoclonal antibodies specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein prepared by immunizing a suitable host with a partially purified, inactivated FIV, screening the host for high FIV-specific antibody response, and fusing splenocytes from said host with a suitable myeloma cell line, and screening hybridomas for specific reactivity with inactivated FIV.

20 5. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 4 wherein the cell line is suitable for obtaining a monoclonal antibody specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein selected from gp 95 and gp 130

25 6. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 4 produced from the cell line deposited as ATCC number PTA-4837.

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Monoclonal antibody according to claim 1 which is mAb 1D9.

30 8. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 3 wherein said glycoprotein is gp95.

9. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 2 wherein said FIV is FIV-Shiz.

10. Monoclonal antibody according to claim 1 or claim 4 wherein said FIV has been inactivated by treatment with formalin.

11. A method for the detection of an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-
5 encoded glycoprotein in a sample which comprises: contacting said sample with a monoclonal antibody specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein to form a complex; and detecting said complex.

12. A method for determining the quantity of an inactivated FIV in a
10 sample which comprises: contacting said sample with a monoclonal antibody specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein to form a complex; and detecting said complex.

13. A method for determining the potency of an inactivated FIV in a
15 sample which comprises: contacting said sample with a monoclonal antibody specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein to form a complex; and detecting said complex.

14. The method according to any of claims 11, 12 or 13 wherein the
20 monoclonal antibody is a monoclonal antibody specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein.

15. A method for the preparation of monoclonal antibodies specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein which comprises
25 immunizing a suitable host with a partially purified, inactivated FIV, screening the host for high FIV-specific antibody response, fusing splenocytes from said host with a suitable myeloma cell line to generate hybridoma cells, screening said hybridoma cells for specific reactivity with inactivated FIV, and then selecting a stable clone, growing said stable clone and harvesting the desired monoclonal antibodies.

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16. The method according to claim 15 wherein the inactivated FIV is FIV-Shiz or FIV-Petaluma.

17. The method according to claim 15 wherein said inactivated FIV is FIV-Shiz.

18. The method according to any of claims 15 wherein said FIV has been
5 inactivated by treatment with formalin.

19. A hybridoma cell line suitable for obtaining of monoclonal antibodies
specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein prepared
by immunizing a suitable host with a partially purified, inactivated FIV, screening the
10 host for high FIV-specific antibody response, and fusing splenocytes from said host
with a suitable myeloma cell line, and screening hybridomas for specific reactivity
with inactivated FIV.

20. The cell line of claim 19 which is suitable for obtaining a monoclonal
15 antibody specific for an epitope unique to an inactivated FIV-encoded glycoprotein
selected from gp 95 and gp 130.

21 The cell line of claim 19 for obtaining a monoclonal antibody which is
mAb 1D9.

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22. The cell line deposited at the American Type Culture Collection under
Accession No. PTA-4837.